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SOVIET BREAK WITH ISRAEL

23 Feb

1. Break climaxed period of increasingly bad Soviet-Israeli relations deliberately provoked by USSR.
2. Preceded by attacks and charges pointed toward expulsion Israeli diplomats in Moscow.
3. Bombing provided immediate excuse for even more drastic step.
4. Unusually strong Polish and Czech reactions to break suggest at least some of satellites will also sever relations.
5. Scope of current Soviet "vigilance" campaign suggests it aimed at tightening security generally, Zionists among logical targets.
6. Orbit-wide rupture would have further disquieting effect on over 2,500,000 Jews in Orbit.
7. Orbit anti-Zionism will undoubtedly be feature of forthcoming UN General Assembly session.

Older Card on Sov. Sec. of Defense's Press Con. DC-7

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~~SECRET~~ SOVIET BACKGROUND

1. USSR one of first countries to support creation of Israel; hoped to expel British, promote insecurity in area and hence increase Soviet influence.
2. Gradually withdrew support as Western influence in Israel became evident.
3. Internal Soviet campaign against "homeless cosmopolitans" with anti-Semitic overtones dates back to September 1948.
4. Jews, with a new homeland outside the Soviet Union considered even less trustworthy than other suspect minority groups.
5. Attitude emerged sharply in current "vigilance" campaign, highlighted by "doctors' plot."
6. Subsequently campaign broadened to include jurists, scientists, economists, individuals of various nationalities, from all strata of society.
7. Zionists logical targets because of known Western contacts, also possibly because of appeal of anti-Semitism in Orbit.

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Soviet Background (Continued)

8. Link between doctors and other alleged Zionists in USSR and Western intelligence centers outside inpost was supplied by Milchoels, prominent Jewish leader, died 1948.

9. Israeli Legation in Moscow established 1948; expulsion of Israeli personnel from Moscow may facilitate "disclosure" that since 1948 they served as hitherto missing high-level link.

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ISRAELI REACTION TO BREAK WITH SOVIETS

1. Anti-Zionist moves inside Orbit had aroused sharp reaction in Israel but
2. Israeli leaders and public did not wish to sever official ties with Soviet Union.
3. Soviet decision did not surprise Israelis, but they regard it as a serious development.
4. By increasing Israeli sense of isolation, will effect their domestic and foreign policies.
5. Has already resulted in increased appeals for political, financial and military support from West.
6. May induce Israel to insist on inclusion in formal defense pacts with West.
7. Will have little effect on Jewish immigration from Orbit countries. Satellite immigration already greatly limited, virtually none from USSR.
8. Concern over fate of Jews in Orbit may lead to attempt to establish underground movement in Orbit.
9. Already sharp restrictions on activity of Orbit diplomatic personnel in Israel may be extended to domestic leftists. ~~SECRET~~

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ARAB REACTION TO SOVIET BREAK WITH ISRAEL

1. Arab reaction limited to satisfaction, though Soviets regarded at best as "somewhat unwelcome ally."
2. No indication that Arabs regard break as primarily for their benefit.
3. Secretary General of Arab League stated they should reorient their policy to exploit new situation.
4. Iraqi leader suggested Palestine question could be reopened with help of Soviet and Asian blocs.
5. Arab concern expressed on two points:
 - a. Fear that action would result in increased Western economic and possibly military assistance to Israel.
 - b. Fear that action might increase number of immigration to Israel.

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